

HVFC Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant application

Project Summary

The **Hat Creek Valley Fire Safe Council (HCVFSC)**, in cooperation with the **Fall River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD)**, received a grant through the Clearinghouse to develop the Hat Creek Valley Fuel Reduction Project in 2006 (Approved July, 2008).

The HCVFSC includes the three adjacent communities of Cassel, Hat Creek and Old Station located in the northeastern section of Shasta County. The Project included:

- The completion of a Strategic Fuels Plan; (signed July 2008 by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors) available upon request);
- A Regional Evacuation Plan and: (completed)
- Fuel reduction demonstrations on 2 acre sites in each community. (completed)

The HCVFSC continues to meet monthly to address fuel reduction issues in the local area.

The Strategic Fuels Plan (as part of the Shasta County Community Wildfire Protection Plan) identified three fuel reduction priorities for each community; Old Station, Hat Creek & Cassel. All of these priorities are deemed “very high or high” in terms of the California fire hazard severity zone rating. One of these high priority sites is in Cassel, an area that has a history of wildland fires. The proposed project for this site includes an 18 acre fuel break (3/4 mile long, 200 feet wide) that would be treated through mastication and hand clearing. A fuel break in this area would benefit fifty four adjacent land owners with an estimated structure value of \$13,500,000.

The elements targeted in this grant application include the following:

- Initial Project Planning – develop future partnerships with CalFire and U.S. Forest Service to address the needs of private landowners.
- Landowner Agreements – compiling a list of all adjacent landowners and getting their approval for future work.
- Environmental Compliance – Meeting CEQA or NEPA requirements.
- Education and Outreach – Writing news articles and public announcements.
- Project Management – Oversight of all elements
- Fiscal Management – Manage contract funds and insurance.
- Capacity Development – Building the resources of the HCVFSC to meet the needs of the three target communities.

The cost to complete the above tasks is \$42,428 (Budget attached) and can be completed within 12 months after approval. The HCVFSC is eager to commence work as soon as possible, so it may start on the ground fuel reduction in this area.